

Bonneville Power Administration
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, July 3, 2002
Contact: Ed Mosey / , BPA (503)-230-5131
Erik Smith, BPA (503) 230-4480

Vandals put Shelton's power at risk;

BPA needs your help to find them

OLYMPIA, Wash. - Northwest rate payers will bear \$5,000 in repair costs because shooters chose to fire at a major power line in an area north of Shelton the evening of June 30. The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible.

This is the fourth time in two years that we've had to go in and repair insulators damaged by gunfire on this line, said Tom Grover, BPA's Olympia line foreman. "When this happens, the shooters not only risk their own lives but the welfare of everyone who relies on the line for service.

The Olympia-Kitsap No. 3 line went out of service at about 8 p.m. on June 30. Fortunately, power was re-routed and no one went without power. A repair crew found 30 insulators damaged. The crew repaired them and got the line back into operation early the next morning.

There are no suspects at this time, but BPA urges anyone who might have seen people in the area, or who knows of anyone heading into the area to fire weapons, to contact BPA or the Mason County Sheriff's Department.

Since 1994, BPA's Crime Witness program has generated hundreds of tips resulting in dozens of arrests, thousands of dollars of recovered property and, most important, deterrence of future crime. Cumulative savings since the program began total more than \$4 million. Informants can call toll free (800) 437-2744. The identity of informants is kept strictly confidential.

Submitted for distribution on 07-03-2002 at 5:15 PM

Bonneville Power Administration, 905 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon
97232
Mailing Address: Media Relations - KC7, P.O. Box 3621, Portland, OR 97208-
3621
Phone: (503)230-5131 **FAX:** (503) 230-5884 **Web Site:** <http://www.bpa.gov>